

[19/06/2020, 12:05:52] Arlene & Michelle: Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. No one outside of this chat, not even WhatsApp, can read or listen to them.

[19/06/2020, 12:05:52] Robin Swann: Robin Swann created group "Arlene & Michelle"

[19/06/2020, 12:05:52] Arlene & Michelle: Robin Swann added you

[19/06/2020, 12:07:59] Robin Swann: Confidential : unofficially hearing ROI likely to be announcing later today following cabinet meeting: gyms, contact sports from 1st July; prebooked restaurants for 1hr 45 with 1m pubs from 29th June; indoor groups from 29th June of up to 50 as long as organised, outdoor 100; 20th July indoor 100 outdoor 500; churches from 29th and hair & beauty.

[19/06/2020, 12:38:59] Michelle O'Neill: No notice again of course

[19/06/2020, 12:39:21] Arlene: Indeed

[25/06/2020, 09:35:11] Robin Swann: Hi, just a heads up, just been informed that Michael is unable to make the Executive this morning [REDACTED] I&S [REDACTED] He has indicated that he should be available for the press brief at 4pm if needed.

[25/06/2020, 09:43:39] Arlene: Thanks Robin

[01/07/2020, 19:06:48] Robin Swann: Hi, Matt Hancock chaired, CDL wasn't there, Scotland held same position as us non-quarantine from "Double Green" countries only, all agreed best to move a same time, so probably, next week, but keen to get countries tied down, CMOs are meeting in the morning & this has been added to their agenda.

[01/07/2020, 19:07:16] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks

[01/07/2020, 19:13:41] Arlene: 🙌

[13/08/2020, 21:49:02] Robin Swann: Hi, just finished a 4 nations international travel meeting, again having reviewed increasing +ve cases, we are now adding, France, Holland, Monaco, Malta, Aruba and Turks & Caicos to the *RED* list, returning travellers will have to quarantine from 4am Sat; supported by all 4 Nations and CMOs.

[13/08/2020, 21:50:10] Arlene: Thanks Robin

[13/08/2020, 22:03:29] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin

[03/09/2020, 19:44:13] Robin Swann: Hi, we aren't recommending any change to travel corridors, Portugal incident rate currently falling, Greece some individual islands with direct flights to Wales/Scot/Eng causing concerns but country overall still within limit. We still are not seeing travel in general as an issue through our Contact Tracing.

[03/09/2020, 19:45:28] Michelle O'Neill: Hi Robin, do you know why Scotland and wales have moved to bring in quarantine again from Portugal

[03/09/2020, 19:47:20] Arlene: Thanks Robin

[03/09/2020, 19:47:25] Robin Swann: for Scotland rate per 100k went over 20 and they use that as an absolute, Wales weren't on the call this evening but had issued a press release before the meeting started.

[03/09/2020, 19:49:07] Robin Swann: Should also point out we are in line with FCDO advice which won't affect travel insurances etc.

[03/09/2020, 19:49:51] Michelle O'Neill: 🙌

[14/09/2020, 20:21:29] Robin Swann: Hi, not sure what happen with the call with Matt Hancock, we were waiting to be dialed in, just to be told it's over.

[14/09/2020, 20:22:17] Michelle O'Neill: yeah I had asked were you not on the call and thought it was strange. Scotland or Wales were not on it either which I was told was happening!

[14/09/2020, 20:27:14] Robin Swann: ok, will chase up tomorrow.

[21/09/2020, 07:41:38] Robin Swann: Hi, I'll be putting through a formal request for an emergency Executive mtg, we have been tracking +ve cases over the weekend & Ian/Michael are firmly of a view we can't wait to Thu to introduce additional postcodes. There will be a paper coming shortly with their recommendations-

[21/09/2020, 07:41:44] Robin Swann: 1. a) That local restrictions should be extended as soon as possible to those postcodes with an incidence over 80/100k over the last seven days, and to neighbouring postcodes which are close to 80.

This would include the following postcodes: 25, 34, 48, 60, 62, 68, 82, 92,

Or

b) That local restrictions should be extended to the following postcodes (to include those postcodes above plus some neighbouring areas at high risk – see map in Annex)

25, 34-35, 48, 60-68, 81-82, 92-93

Or

c) That current local restrictions are applied NI wide.

2) That this should be accompanied by strong messaging about the possible need to apply further local restrictions if numbers continue to arise.

3) That the Executive should consider at its next meeting options for further restrictions should these be required.

regards,

Robin Swann MLA

Minister of Health.

[21/09/2020, 07:44:40] Arlene: Ok thanks Robin.

[21/09/2020, 07:44:50] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin

[21/09/2020, 21:20:38] Robin Swann: Hi, just finished a 4 Nats Health Minister/CMO call, just a few points that maybe useful for you tomorrow-

1) England looking at a curfew for hospitality, Scotland & Wales keen to harmonise as much as possible to prevent cross border travel, may give a steer for us?

2) Financial support for those asked to isolate, again an ask from DA's that DAs join that group, to see what the criteria & method being deployed is, also unsure how that would work with Barnett as Matt was suggesting.

3) Agreement to develop a single message from CMO's to those who had previously been shielding.

[21/09/2020, 21:22:14] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin

[21/09/2020, 21:22:20] Arlene: 👍

[22/09/2020, 20:47:57] Robin Swann: 👍 great messages

[22/09/2020, 20:49:25] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin. Apologies got drawn in to that, hope the meeting worked out a solution to the opening times. Will get caught up with Declan shortly.

[22/09/2020, 20:59:09] Arlene: Thanks Robin- hope we can find a quick solution to curfew issue. A

[03/10/2020, 13:07:58] Robin Swann: CONFIDENTIAL PRE- RELEASE

726 + cases & 1 death

Dashboard will be public at 2pm

[03/10/2020, 13:08:14] Arlene: Thanks Robin

[03/10/2020, 13:12:07] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin

[03/10/2020, 13:29:18] Arlene: What are the hospital admissions like?

[03/10/2020, 13:31:20] Robin Swann: 65 inpatients

9icu of which 7 incubated

[03/10/2020, 13:31:38] Arlene: 👍

[04/10/2020, 13:51:40] Robin Swann: CONFIDENTIAL PRE- RELEASE

462 + cases & 1 death

Dashboard will be public at 3pm

No hospital updates provided on a Sunday

[04/10/2020, 13:52:16] Arlene: 👍

[04/10/2020, 13:52:29] Michelle O'Neill: 👍

[04/10/2020, 18:02:20] Michelle O'Neill: I think it would be useful for us to get together 2moro at some stage. To take stock after a bruising weekend of increased cases. Michelle

[04/10/2020, 18:50:08] Arlene: I am very concerned at the level of briefing going on without recourse to Executive. We can discuss tomorrow.

[07/10/2020, 08:30:04] Robin Swann: BBC News - NI suicide rate expected to fall following review

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-54436324>

For info. we have Siobhan leading on this, as its a significant piece of work.

[07/10/2020, 08:31:17] Robin Swann: as the messaging around it needs to be balanced & sensitive, Siobhan is due to brief Exec Sub Committee on Thurs morning.

[07/10/2020, 08:37:00] Michelle O'Neill: Just listened to Siobhan, hugely significant development.

[10/10/2020, 12:05:09] Robin Swann: We will be reporting 902 additional +ve cases at 2pm, waiting on Hosp/ICU admissions, CMO/CSA are updating modelling, would it be possible to have a mtg tomorrow afternoon/night (Sun) rather than wait to Mon? I can put something through PO if it suits?

[10/10/2020, 12:06:38] Michelle O'Neill: Yes Robin happy to meet soon as required. Suggest 3pm 2moro

[11/10/2020, 11:47:54] Robin Swann: We will be reporting 1066 additional +ve cases and 1 death at 2pm today.

[11/10/2020, 12:13:04] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin. See you later

[12/10/2020, 18:12:10] Robin Swann:

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/republicofirelandnews/2020/10/09/news/cross-border-restrictions-could-be-introduced-simon-coveney-warns-2093240/>

[12/10/2020, 19:43:18] Robin Swann: Hi, just been informed Irish News have been leaked a paper from Belfast Trust moving to stand up the Nightingale and will be running the story tomorrow.

[12/10/2020, 19:47:42] Arlene: Thanks for letting us know.

[12/10/2020, 19:48:47] Michelle O'Neill: Ok thanks

[13/10/2020, 12:27:21] Robin Swann: Hi, we need to move today, we will be reporting 7 deaths at 2pm.

[13/10/2020, 12:31:15] Michelle O'Neill: Desperate situation. Absolutely agree.

[19/10/2020, 15:45:21] Robin Swann: Hi, we are currently planning to put more data up on our website, to include the weekly "R" paper also the table we presented to the Exec on the 24th not the full paper, will forward through formal channels, but checking you don't have any objections?

[19/10/2020, 15:45:54] Arlene: Is that the one with the different interventions etc

[19/10/2020, 15:46:04] Michelle O'Neill: that's a good idea Robin

[19/10/2020, 15:46:06] Robin Swann: yes

[19/10/2020, 15:46:31] Robin Swann: yes, but not the accompanying Exec paper just the table

[19/10/2020, 15:46:59] Arlene: Yes that's fine thanks robin

[21/10/2020, 21:28:49] Robin Swann: Hi, I've received an alert via my App, to self isolate, so will be working from home for next 2 weeks.

[21/10/2020, 21:30:00] Michelle O'Neill: Just saw that Robin. Hope you are feeling ok. Ps I also hope you have a room in the house that you can lock the door on- I'm speaking from experience lol

[21/10/2020, 21:34:26] Arlene: Sorry to hear that Robin.

[05/11/2020, 22:37:20] Robin Swann: Hi, following a joint CMO call we are moving tomorrow to add Denmark to our travel restrictions list, Denmark have detected a mutated strain of Coronavirus in their mink farms, which can spread to humans this has led to a mass cull of their mink, so as a precautionary measure until more is found out we are adding a post travel quarantine for anyone arriving from Denmark, we have no direct flights, we have alerted RoI colleagues. Will update tomorrow.

[05/11/2020, 22:37:54] Arlene: Ok thanks Robin.

[06/11/2020, 17:50:21] Robin Swann: 4 Nations moving to strict quarantine on anyone arriving or who has already arrived in past few days from Denmark, strictly precautionary until more details are developed. CDL following up communications with RoI Government. Concern has been raised ECDC was meant to report its take today but that has been delayed until Thus. Will follow up when additional

info received.

[06/11/2020, 17:52:38] Michelle O'Neill: 👍

[07/11/2020, 20:05:19] Robin Swann: SUB-2114-2020 Letter from Minister Swann to Minister Donnelly.pdf • 3 pages <attached: 00000071-SUB-2114-2020 Letter from Minister Swann to Minister Donnelly.pdf>

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[07/11/2020, 20:05:31] Robin Swann: for info

[07/11/2020, 20:06:03] Arlene: 👍

[03/12/2020, 15:16:39] Robin Swann: Hi, don't know if it's been fed through, CMO has a meeting on vaccines at 4:30pm that needs to attend.

[03/12/2020, 15:18:12] Michelle O'Neill: 👍 how long will that be

[03/12/2020, 15:18:25] Arlene: Ok thanks Robin still on this JMC

[14/12/2020, 16:06:00] Robin Swann: The Department of Health is aware that a variant of SAR-COV-2 has recently been identified through genomic sequencing in England.

The significance of this is currently being assessed however there is currently no indication that it causes worse illness or that it will not respond to the vaccine.

NB Matt Hancock said this in the house

[14/12/2020, 16:24:39] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin

[14/12/2020, 17:57:20] Michelle O'Neill: Is this strain here Robin?

[14/12/2020, 18:02:21] Robin Swann: We are currently checking, seems to be SE England atm.

[14/12/2020, 18:28:25] Robin Swann: as of 7th Dec no strains detected in NI.

[14/12/2020, 18:31:57] Michelle O'Neill: Thank you

[19/12/2020, 11:30:57] Robin Swann: just confirmed we have 4 positive cases which have shown "an unusual test profile" genomic sequencing being completed but will take time, but still nothing confirmed, samples have been sent to PHE & Imperial College.

[19/12/2020, 11:31:30] Michelle O'Neill: ok thanks Robin

[23/12/2020, 19:33:43] Robin Swann: Results have come back from genotyping, confirming presence of new variant, also highly likely RoI will confirm presence shortly. We will issue press shortly then follow up any interviews with DCMO & CSA.

[23/12/2020, 19:36:01] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin, is there any information on this additional strain that has been identified

[23/12/2020, 19:41:19] Robin Swann: seems it originated in South Africa, detected via UKs sequencing program, being worked on in PHE labs for how vaccine works with it etc. Health Ministers mtg tomorrow, Steven Donnelly has been invited.

[30/12/2020, 06:26:48] Robin Swann: Weekly Health Ministers meeting which was due to be at 12:30 has been brought forward to 6:30 & is being coordinated by Cabinet office, highly likely MRHA has approved AstraZeneca vaccine, if so we already have some in central storage which will let us start next week on over 80's via GPs. Will confirm when call finishes.

[30/12/2020, 08:03:19] Arlene: That's great news

[11/01/2021, 17:12:36] Robin Swann: <attached: 00000090-PHOTO-2021-01-11-17-12-36.jpg>

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[11/01/2021, 17:15:45] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin

[21/01/2021, 20:08:03] Robin Swann: <attached: 00000092-PHOTO-2021-01-21-20-08-03.jpg>

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[04/02/2021, 11:42:30] Robin Swann: he's very nervous today, he see's this as a daunting experience, but he is very good. Clinical Lecturer & Consultant in Public Health.

[04/02/2021, 11:43:19] Arlene: I'm sure he does see it as a daunting task!

[04/02/2021, 11:43:39] Michelle O'Neill: God love him. He will settle in over a few weeks

[04/02/2021, 13:49:54] Robin Swann: Data not published yet by my Dept, but incase you are doing Exec Press Conf later a confidential pre-brief,

as of yesterday:

Total vaccines : 289,274

Total 1st doses : 263,735 (approx 1 in 7 of our population)

Yesterday: 17,445

Carehomes :
100% 1st visit; 90% 2nd

approx, 90% of over 80's

[04/02/2021, 13:50:50] Arlene: 👍

[04/02/2021, 13:52:52] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks

[18/02/2021, 14:35:27] Robin Swann: few other updates if you are doing press brief:

+ve cases over last 7 days for over 60s is at 18% lowest level since 7th Jan, area to keep an eye on in regards to vaccine

Carehome : 49 being supported with an outbreak, 11th Jan 150

427,569 1st doses
457,581 administered

95% 80yr +

89% 75yr +

79% 70yr +

65% 65yr +

[23/02/2021, 13:56:22] Robin Swann: CONFIDENTIAL we have confirmed 3 cases of the South African variant - risk of wider transmission judged low, PHA/RVL/DoH joint IMT on investigation & assessment.

[23/02/2021, 14:11:53] Arlene: Thanks Robin - chat later

[25/02/2021, 14:56:14] Robin Swann: few other updates if you are doing press brief:

+ve cases over last 7 days for over 60s is at 16% lowest level this year, area to keep an eye on in regards to vaccine

Carehome : 28 being supported with an outbreak, 11th Jan 150

523k 1st doses
491k administered

96% 80yr +

90% 75yr +

85% 70yr +

69% 65yr +

[25/02/2021, 15:10:51] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks Robin

[25/02/2021, 18:48:34] Robin Swann:

<https://twitter.com/DarranMarshall/status/1364986376421318657?s=08>

Hi, this is complete fabrication from Donnelly, as this is being lead by TEO, I think he should be corrected.

[26/02/2021, 12:07:44] Robin Swann: JCVI next phase of cohorts is to maintain calling people forward by age groupings rather than by profession.

[26/02/2021, 13:59:08] Michelle O'Neill: When does that begin Robin?

[02/03/2021, 13:33:41] Robin Swann: few other updates :

Carehome : 25 being supported with an outbreak, 11th Jan 150

537k 1st doses
35k 2nd doses
572k administered

96% 80yr +

91% 75yr +

86% 70yr +

71% 65yr +

[03/03/2021, 17:19:50] Robin Swann: 96% of over 80-year-olds– 69,146 people.

* 91% of 75-79 age group – 56,474 people.

* 86% of 70-74 age group – 70,098 people.

* 72% of 65-69 age group – 64,643 people

* 45% of CEV – 42,832 people. Many CEV (Clinically Extremely Vulnerable) people will be in the 65 plus age group, so are being covered in that section of the vaccination programme.

[03/03/2021, 17:20:44] Michelle O'Neill: 👍

[10/03/2021, 09:36:51] Robin Swann: <attached: 00000110-PHOTO-2021-03-10-09-36-51.jpg>

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[10/03/2021, 09:37:34] Michelle O'Neill: Of course you did 😊

[14/03/2021, 17:04:48] Robin Swann: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/statement-continued-deployment-astrazeneca-vaccine-ni>

[14/03/2021, 17:05:34] Arlene: 👍

[14/03/2021, 17:14:14] Michelle O'Neill: 👍

[16/03/2021, 15:02:02] Robin Swann: BBC News - AstraZeneca vaccine: EU regulator 'firmly convinced' benefits outweigh risks

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-56411561>

[16/03/2021, 15:06:15] Robin Swann: Vaccines today :

692k total

634k 1st

58k 2nd

13 Carehomes being supported

[16/03/2021, 15:09:44] Arlene: 👍

[23/03/2021, 19:04:22] Robin Swann: We were briefed on this last night, there will be DA involvement & content.

[23/03/2021, 19:04:36] Robin Swann: *are content

[23/03/2021, 19:05:27] Robin Swann: it was stress from DAs that we are "involved" rather than simply "consulted".

[25/03/2021, 13:52:46] Robin Swann: Vaccines update today:

808k total

703k 1st

105k 2nd

9 Carehomes being supported

[25/03/2021, 13:55:04] Michelle O'Neill: 👍

[31/03/2021, 11:14:06] Robin Swann: Hi, I have submitted an Urgent Procedure request for allocation of Health funding that is subject to Ministerial direction, appreciate it if you could turn around as quickly as feasible as I need to process some of it today, to keep in this financial year, thanks.

[31/03/2021, 11:22:56] Michelle O'Neill: Will get a look Robin

[31/03/2021, 11:36:34] Arlene: Thanks Robin, I'm content

[31/03/2021, 11:48:37] Robin Swann: Thanks, if I could get a formal return, would allow us to proceed.

[31/03/2021, 12:41:45] Michelle O'Neill: Have cleared it now Robin.

[31/03/2021, 12:43:13] Robin Swann: 👍

[06/05/2021, 10:19:44] Robin Swann: CONFIDENTIAL: PHA have advised they have reported 7 indian variant positive cases; 5 settings; 3 groups associated to travel, 2 prior to India going on Red list & 1 currently in hotel quarantine; others isolating; all being supported by PHA & Contact tracing. Other contacts currently being sequenced, will provide update at Exec.

[06/05/2021, 10:45:03] Arlene: 👍

[04/06/2021, 19:10:53] Robin Swann: CONFIDENTIAL: PHA will issue a statement shortly, our quick result reflex testing have identified 3 possible delta-variant cases in the Kilkeel area, as a proactive measure we are deploying community testing in the area from tomorrow onwards. Message is that this is proactive & precautionary & cases are yet to be confirmed.

[04/06/2021, 19:14:54] Michelle O'Neill: Ok thanks Robin

[04/06/2021, 19:15:13] Arlene: Thanks Robin